

1943-44

Sir George Williams College and Schools:

In common with other Canadian educational institutions, Sir George Williams College has been feeling the effects of the war to a greater extent than at any time since 1939. Quite drastic effects have been registered upon the student body, the staff, the programme, and the general management, in spite of which the College has continued the steady growth which has characterized it during the past two decades.

During the academic year 1943-44, there were registered in the five units of the College a total of 3,502 individual students, an increase of 6% over the previous year. In addition 396 members of the armed forces were given instruction without tuition fees in the various regular classes of the College, making a total of 3,898 persons served during the year. Of the regular enrolment, 82% was in the evening division; 51% were men, 49% women. A successful summer session was held with 538 students enrolled. Registration in the various units of the College and Schools was as follows:

	<u>Day</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>Evening</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College (Faculty of Arts, Science & Commerce)	245	1010	1255
High School	---	785	785
Elementary School	---	135	135
Business School	262	876	1138
Art School	<u>71</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>189</u>
Total Registration	578	2924	3502
Armed Forces (gratis)	---	---	<u>396</u>
			3898

At the graduation ceremony of the College, in June, 49 received Bachelors' degrees in Arts, Science and Commerce, 38 received Associate Diplomas, and 3 Diplomas in Association Science.

During the year an important addition was made to the holdings of the College library, in the acquisition of more than 1,000 volumes of Canadiana. With these additions the College now has one of the better collections in this field, particularly from the standpoint of the needs of the undergraduate student.

Already some indication of the educational needs of the post-war period is being provided by the number of ex-service men and women being registered in the various courses of the College. This number has been increasing in recent months, and lends emphasis to the continued thought being given this subject by staff and Board of Governors. There is every indication that the College and its associated schools will be called upon to play an important part in an educational programme which will tax the resources of the whole country on the cessation of hostilities.

REGISTRATION IN THE COLLEGE AND SCHOOLS

Academic Year 1943-44

(Comparative figures for previous year)  
( given in each case in parenthesis )

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	<u>Day</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>Evening</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. College (Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce)	245 (226)	1010 (1022)	1255 (1248)
2. High School	---	785 ( 727)	785 ( 727)
3. Elementary School	---	135 ( 114)	135 ( 114)
4. Business School	262 (323)	876 ( 765)	1138 (1088)
5. Art School	<u>71 ( 39)</u>	<u>118 ( 98)</u>	<u>189 ( 137)</u>
Total Regular Registration -	578 (588)	2924 (2726)	3502 (3314)
Members of Armed Forces, without tuition fee. -			<u>396 ( 310)</u>
			3898 (3624)

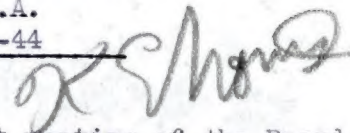
TWENTY-THREE YEARS' PROGRESS IN ENROLMENT

1921-22 - 500	1932-33 - 1003
1922-23 - 560	1933-34 - 849
1923-24 - 583	1934-35 - 948
1924-25 - 606	1935-36 - 1023
1925-26 - 702	1936-37 - 1238
1926-27 - 808	1937-38 - 1618
1927-28 - 905	1938-39 - 1749
1928-29 - 1020	1939-40 - 2083
1929-30 - 1206	1940-41 - 2498
1930-31 - 1233	1941-42 - 3153
1931-32 - 1141	1942-43 - 3314 x
	1943-44 - 3502 x

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x not including Active Serve Bursaries

Sir George Williams College & Schools  
of the Montreal Y.M.C.A.  
Review of the year 1943-44



It seems fitting and useful at this first meeting of the Board of Governors for the academic year 1944-45 to preface our approach to the problems of a new term by a brief review of the academic year just closed. For several years past we have not issued anything in the nature of a formal annual report, due largely to the crowded nature of the agendas at the spring meetings of the Board and to the quite close contact maintained by the Board with the work of the College throughout the year. This brief review, therefore, might be considered as a substitute for such a report.

The College is now entering upon its tenth year under the administration of the present Dean and Principal. It is natural, therefore, for this resumé to make reference to changes which have taken place in that nine-year period since the summer of 1935. In that time the enrollment has almost quadrupled--from 948 in 1934-5 to 3,502 last year. Most of the five units of the College have contributed to this expansion, but the greatest growth has occurred in the College proper (the Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce). It will be recalled that the entire senior college development in this unit has taken place since 1935. In that year, for the first time, third year courses were added to the two-year Junior College programme which had been in operation since 1929, and had enrolled less than 300 students compared with the 1255 which now constitutes its student body. (See attached Table). Attendant upon this growth, the full-time Faculty has increased from two to nine; part-time staff from about 40 to more than 100; laboratories from three to five with complete new equipment for advanced college work in the Sciences; library holdings from a few hundred volumes to more than 11,000 housed in new and attractive reading rooms; eleven additional classrooms have been put to use in this building and in the Annex opened three years ago; extra-curricular student activities have grown from almost zero to a complex structure of organizations and programme rivalling in extent the regular activity of a large YMCA branch; the Business School has been completely re-equipped, including a modern business machines room, and its whole curriculum reconstructed, and in many other ways real progress steadily achieved.

This recital of changes in the past ten years is presented here to indicate not merely the immediate background from which the present College and its Schools have evolved, but to emphasize the rapidity with which the evolution has occurred. This rapidity of recent growth is very much a part of our present framework, and the source of many of the problems which we are called upon to solve. Such growth does not take place evenly and uniformly at all points in our organization. Each successive stage of growth disturbs adjustment at other points, and calls for constant attention by Board and Staff.

The past year has been the fifth in which the problems of war have disturbed the student body and the administration of the College (the sixth if one recalls the constant unseiltement of the academic year 1938-39 following the Munich affair). It has been our peculiar lot that the period of our most rapid expansion has coincided with the increasing demands of the war effort upon students and Faculty, multiplying many fold the difficulty of obtaining increased staff, equipment and supplies, and requiring a major portion of administrative time for the

fulfillment of official manpower orders and regulations. During the past year this has increased still further.

The war years have increased the proportion of women students in the College from less than 30% to practically 50%. They have very substantially lowered the average age of students in all units of the College & Schools; and have increased the demand for scientific and technical training, as opposed to the general or liberal arts. They have also led to the inauguration three years ago of a wartime summer session which this year enrolled some 600 students and has met a response which will likely result in its retention as a permanent part of our programme.

The attached record of registration shows the distribution of enrollment in the College and its four Associated Schools during the academic year 1943-44. It will be seen that we are still a predominantly evening institution, with about five times as many students in the evening as in the day divisions. It must be remembered, however, that even the day enrollment of 245 full-time students in the Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce makes this unit alone larger than the majority of Canadian degree-granting colleges.

It is of special interest to note the enrollment of 396 members of the armed forces in the regular classes of the College, without tuition fee, as compared with 310 the previous year. This service which the College has rendered since the beginning of the war has thus attained a considerable volume, and should be considered an important part of the war service contribution of the Montreal Y.M.C.A. (The value, in regular tuition fees, of the courses for which these men and women registered would be in excess of \$20,000).

It cost \$174,465.00 to operate the College last year, against which it received \$153,324.74 in tuition and other income. The balance of \$21,140.86 was provided by the Metropolitan Joint Fund of the Montreal Y.M.C.A, in addition to the centralized accounting and other administrative services which the Metropolitan Office provides to all its branches and which do not appear on the College financial statement. (It is of interest to note that the total expenditures of the College in 1934-35 were \$47,789, and receipts \$42,369-- about one-quarter of the present figures).

(Extracts from reports of academic units submitted by the)  
(Dean, Headmaster of the High School, Director of the )  
(Business School and Director of the School of Art. )

At the expense of unduly prolonging this supposedly brief survey I should mention some of the more pressing of the problems which face us as we enter a new academic year:

1. Space:

Committee now at work.  
Staff studies.  
Architect's summary.  
Hopes for a new building whenever possible.

2. Recognition:

Phenomenal progress, against difficulties  
However--still two points at which recognition not yet achieved--  
law and high school teacher's diploma.

"Second Charter" required.

3. Post war rehabilitation period:

Programme

Space--rented quarters essential for the immediate post-war rehabilitation period.

4. Staff problems have been solved as we have come to them--but we do need now, additional help in the following spheres:

Executive, Commerce, Chemistry, Guidance, Personnel.

At this stage in our development we should, I believe, take enough time in this Board during the next few months, to pause and review not only our history but our function. What is the job which we, as a Y.M.C.A. College, have set out to do in this city? Are we doing it? There is constant danger as we grow particularly at the university level, that we may take on new functions and new tasks without considering too well whether they conform to our established policy, and to our concept of our task as a certain kind of educational institution.

This College has, in the past, made a rather unique contribution to education--not merely in that it has provided for thousands of young people opportunities for education which were open to them in no other place--but that it has provided in many cases a different kind of education. It has developed a fairly unique blend of the practical and the cultural which refuses to set these two aims of education up as opposite goals, each to be achieved at the expense of the other. It has adopted, throughout the 71 years of its history the belief that vocational competence was a laudable aim of education, and has acted accordingly. But it has also stated that man does not live by bread alone, that personal self-realization can come through work skillfully done, that cultural values can be woven into practical subjects, and that so-called cultural subjects are the merest froth if they are not firmly based in the practical affairs of daily living. This fundamental philosophy has resulted in many unique aspects of curriculum and organization in this college--aspects which I believe we should take time to study as we look forward to further years of institutional growth.